

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 /152 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5776

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3520

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA CB

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS:

RELATIONSHIP TO KHMER

REF: USUN 3503 (BEING REPEATED TO ADDRESSEES)

USUN 3512 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: CHANGE IN PHILIPPINE POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICAN
CREDENTIALS MAY BE TURNED TO OUR ADVANTAGE IN EFFORT TO
DEFEAT PRO-SIHANOUK RES AND PRESERVE GKR SEAT. OUR
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REACTION TO PHILIPPINE SOUTH AFRICAN POSITION THUS SHOULD

BE CAREFULLY WEIGHTED IN CONTEXT OF EFFORT ON KHMER. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL(A), PHILIPPINES, AS A RESULT OF ROMULO'S PERSONAL DECISION, NOT ONLY VOTED IN CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING SEPT 27 TO REJECT SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS BUT ALSO DELIVERED PRINCIPAL STATEMENT PROVIDING ANTI-SAG RATIONALE. WE WILL TRANSMIT FULL TEXT OF PHILIPPINE STATEMENT (BY UNDER SECRETARY INGLES) AS SOON AS AVAILABLE SEPT 30. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS WITH GOP, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, INCONSISTENCY OF SEP 27 POSITION WITH PREVIOUS GOP POSITION ON CREDENTIALS AND ERRONEOUS REASONING RELATING TO RHODESIAN "PRECEDENT" ETC. ON WHICH PHILIPPINE STATEMENT SOUGHT TO JUSTIFY GOP POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICA.
2. WE SEE IN PHILIPPINE SWITCH ON SOUTH AFRICA, HOWEVER, SOME BENEFIT TO OUR EFFORT TO PRESERVE KHMER SEAT AT UNGA. PHILIPPINE POSITION ON SAG SHOULD, ALTHOUGH TO AN UNKNOWN DEGREE, STRENGTHEN ITS CREDIBILITY WITH NON-ALIGNING AND WITH OTHERS SENSITIVE TO NON-ALIGNING PRESSURE.
3. AS WE HAVE REPORTED SEPARATELY (REFTEL B), ASEAN AND ASIAN SOLIDARITY ON PRO-GKR EFFORT IS BEING THREATENED, TO WHAT DEGREE WE ARE NOT YET SURE, BUT DIFFERENCES OVER TACTICS. FILIPINOS, IN AWG MEETINGS, HAVE NOT PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE. HOWEVER, GIVEN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK OUT IN GENERAL COMMITTEE AND OTHER INDICATORS, WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT CONSTANCY OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT FOR GKR. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE NOT SEEN EVIDENCE THAT ROMULO OR HIS DELEGATION HERE IS PLANNING TO LOBBY VIGOROUSLY AGAINST GRUNK RES AND FOR WHATEVER COUNTER-RESOLUTION GRK SUPPORTERS FINALLY PROPOSE.
4. WE INTEND TO DO WHAT WE CAN HERE, BOTH IN CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER ASIANS AND DIRECTLY WITH PHILIPPINES TO ENERGIZE PHILIPPINES' PRO-GKR EFFORT AND TO CAPITALIZE ON WHAT NOW PRESUMABLY IS PHILIPPINES' AND ROMULO'S ENHANCED CREDIBILITY WITH THOSE WE WANT TO INFLUENCE ON KHMER. IN PARTICULAR, WE HOPE THAT PHILIPPINES WILL BE WILLING TO WORK PARTICULARLY HARD ON GREY AREA COUNTRIES THAT ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM GRUNK SUPPORTERS, BUT WHOSE SUPPORT OR AT LEAST ABSTENTION WE VITALLY NEED TO PRESERVE GKR SEAT.
5. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT THE DEPARTMENT, IN WEIGHING WHAT STEPS, IF ANY, IT MIGHT WISH TO TAKE IN

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REACTION TO PHILIPPINE POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS, WILL BEAR IN MIND POTENTIAL PROVIDED BY THAT POSITION FOR MEANINGFUL HELP ON KHMER.
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